

THE committee, to whom was referred the petition of fundry inhabitants of Harford county, beg leave to report, That they have examined all the evidences touching the petition from the inhabitants of said county, for erecting the public buildings at the mouth of Susquehanna in said county; that from the present appearance of things, Havre-de-Grace, at the mouth of Susquehanna, promises to be a place of considerable importance, as the pre-emption of all produce coming down said river will most probably be vested in it; that Havre-de-Grace seems to be best calculated for affording a decent and commodious entertainment to those lawyers and other persons who may find it necessary to attend the court; that as a commercial country, every encouragement should be given to towns so situated, as to afford at least a probability of becoming conspicuous in trade; that Scott's Old Field, the place where the courts are now held, is much more in the centre of the county than Havre de-Grace, but from its inland situation and remoteness from navigation, cannot be a place of much importance, and that for want of good taverns and lodging houses, gentlemen and others frequenting the court there, cannot be conveniently or decently accommodated. The committee further report, that the intention of the petitioners was not published agreeably to a resolve of the house of delegates of July session 1779, but it was advertised in the Baltimore paper eight weeks before the petition was presented to the house, and that the petition was generally known in the county, and publicly handed about at the November court in said county. All which is submitted to the honourable house.

By order,

R. B. LATIMER, clk.

Which was read.

Mr. Grahame appeared in the house.

The bill to correct a mistake in a deed of bargain and sale executed by William Askew to John Millan, to record a deed of bargain and sale executed by John Millan to William Mackie, and to empower Phillilla Mackie, William Magruder, and Leonard Smith, to dispose of part of a tract of land for the purposes therein mentioned, was read the second time and passed. Sent to the senate by Mr. Bayly.

Mr. M'Mechen appeared in the house.

On motion, Leave given to bring in a supplement to the act for the relief of the poor in Baltimore county. ORDERED, That Mr. M'Mechen, Mr. Dent, and Mr. Goldsborough, be a committee to prepare and bring in the same.

Benedict Edward Hall, Esq; from the senate, delivers to Mr. Speaker the bill for the relief of the poor in Talbot county, enforced; "By the senate, December 15, 1785: Read the first time" and ordered to lie on the table.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk."

"By the senate, December 19, 1785: Read the second time and will pass with the proposed amendment.

"By order,

J. DORSEY, clk.

Amendment proposed. In the 6th line from the bottom of the 22d page, after the word "mentioned," insert, "Provided also, and be it enacted, that the trustees, or a major part of them, appointed by this act, shall have full and sufficient power to settle with the aforesaid John Stevens and Moses Allen, and to make such allowance to the said John Stevens and Moses Allen, that they or the major part of them may think just, for the depreciation of any money which the said John Stevens and Moses Allen may have received in virtue of the aforesaid act, entitled, An act for the relief of the poor in Talbot county, any thing in this act to the contrary notwithstanding."

The order of the day, respecting the bill to prevent the exportation of unmerchantable tobacco, is postponed for further consideration until Wednesday morning.

The house took into consideration the order of the day, and the following question being propounded to the house, viz. That it is the opinion of this house, that the legislature of this state has a constitutional power over its acts or laws which concern the whole community, or respect the rights or property of all the citizens of the state, and can repeal, alter or change, such laws, at their will and pleasure, with this exception only, that any property or rights acquired or vested in virtue, and during the existence of such laws, cannot be taken away, divested, infringed, impaired, or in any manner affected, by such repeal or alteration? The previous question was called for and put, That the said question be now put? The yeas and nays being called for by Mr. Beatty appeared as follow:

A F F I R M A T I V E.

Messrs	T. Bond,	Grahame,	Dent,	Adams,	Chafe,	Joseph Dashiell,
	Somerville,	Taney,	Turner,	Waters,	Quynn,	Purnell,
	De Butts,	Fraizer,	Bracco,	Ramsey,	Chaille,	M'Mechen,
	Lethbrury,	Jones,	John Dashiell,	F. Bowie,	Mitchell,	Wootton.

Messrs	Key,	Ridgely,	Kirkman,	John Seney,	Norris,	Downes,
	Graves,	Stevenson,	Hooper,	Sewell,	Love,	Stull,
	B Worthington,	Roberts,	Baker,	Jackson,	J Bond,	Cellars,
	N. Worthington,	Edmondson,	Oglevee,	Faw,	Wheeler,	Funk,
	Hall,	Goldsborough,	Miller,	Beatty,	Hughlett,	Oncale,
	Stone,	Gale,	Digges,	Bayly,	Driver,	Beall.

So it was determined in the negative.

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